

# Fletcher's Farming

## STATE RIGHTS

FARMING MUST PAY OR THE NATION WILL PERISH - Geo. B. Terrell.

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## Getting Rid of Graft

By J. C. COONS

The front page article in August number, under "Burdensome Taxation", makes some strong statements. We have many benefits from taxation. Consider the thousands of miles of roads, the bridges, harbors, and much else. Compulsory taxation would not have been necessary to provide the funds for these, could the people have been assured no graft or waste would have been connected with the building.

No one knows just what percent of our public money is wasted, or paid to grafters. To say that 50 per cent of it may be a conservative estimate.

To check this waste, or worse than waste, of public money, and to check the growing inclination of officials for more power, should now be the greatest concern of the people. I believe a drastic change in the methods of nominating and electing officials is necessary.

A lucky step it would be, could we succeed in exchanging the present hordes of officials, wished on us by the damnable patronage system, for the really necessary number of public servants to carry on the public service demanded by the people. This would be nearing genuine democracy.

Another front page article in the August number criticizes "Humanity" for condemning the profit system. The editor of "Humanity" and his critic merely have different definitions of the word "profit". To a good many now it is a synonym for the word "loot".

"Business" ordinarily consists in the distribution of goods or material. Such distribution is useful work, and like farming, it requires capital. Certainly the business man, no less than the farmer, is entitled to a fair living for his time and investment. The earnings of an honest business man, or of a farmer, deserve a better name than "profits". We should leave that word for the take-in of shady business.

One of the things that every honest man and every honest paper should do is help to counteract the idea so persistently taught by the profiteers, grafters and chain of mighty papers, that great brains should be rewarded by great wealth, at the expense of those who produce all wealth, the productive workers. I think it would be difficult to name any really brainy man, of material usefulness to the world, who has cared about accumulating great wealth.

The failure of big-salaried men to render us efficient and honest public service has resulted in quite a general demand for a drastic cut in all salaries paid out of the public treasury.

Four hundred dollars a day, which is about what the President draws, counting all his extras, is rather high for fishing and fixing political fences.

A system in which every citizen shall have opportunity for a voice in directing the public service of his precinct, of the larger political units in which he lives, and of the nation,—nothing less than this can be honestly called democracy.

Such a system, raising the interest and responsibility of every individual, would inevitably raise the standard of intelligence, citizenship, civilization.

## Who Cares for The Farmers?

BY P. A. SPAIN

I will not express my own opinion on this question until Mr. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, gives us his answer. Remember Mr. Wallace is high authority, and if you don't listen to my opinion maybe you will listen to his. Recently he made a speech to an Iowa Democratic Convention.

He is quoted as saying some very disparaging things about Eastern Republicans. He says: "If the Iowa Republicans knew what the Eastern Republicans who control their party really stand for they would change over and become Democrats tomorrow. Most of the Republicans in position and power have no real use for either farmers or workers, except so far as their votes are concerned."

"Most of them have no use for our present Farm Program or any other Farm Program which would really work. They are interested primarily in getting a larger share of the National income. At best they believe that by putting capital on their backs prosperity can be created, not only for big business, but for farmers and workers as well."

"This is the famous 'trickle-down' theory of the past. The control and money of the Republican Party, are today so located as to make it impossible for anyone connected with that party, no matter how fine his character, to put into action on a National scale a program of justice for farmers and workers."

"The big money control of that party does not know and does not

Henry Ford.

"He was born on a farm near Dearborn, Mich., and at the age of 12 was left motherless."

"Henry went to school until he was 15, but worked on the farm after school hours. At 16 he could no longer tolerate farm work. He went to Detroit and apprenticed himself to a machine shop at a weekly wage of \$2.50. His board and lodging cost him \$3.50 a week. To make up the dif-

ference he worked from 7 to 11 in the evening for a jeweler, for which he received \$2 a week.

"After a year (when he was 17) he went from the machine shop to an engine shop to learn something of the building of engines. Later he secured a job with the Detroit Edison Company as an engineer and machinist.

"He set up a shop in a shed in the rear of his home. After work hours he worked on the building of a gasoline motor car, which he completed in 1892. This was the beginning of the famous Ford industries.

"Once a poor farmer lad—Henry Ford, through his marvelous perseverance, became one of the richest men in the world"—Health & Wealth, August, 1938, P. 108.

Those Days Are Gone.

The case of Henry Ford is similar to that of a multitude of men in this country in the past, except that none hit a plan that piled up money as Ford's plan did.

But those good old days of liberty and Prosperity are gone forever in this country. Government control has been so widely extended, and taxes now eat up so fast the profits of your labor, that it will take you a long, long time to accumulate enough to make you economically independent. In fact, if the government is able to carry out its scheme of "planned economy", you will never see the day when you will be economically independent.

Which Master.

"Of course, if the people must decide between the concentration of economic power in the hands of a few individuals or its concentration in the government, they will take the government," observes Roosevelt.

That is not a choice between two situations. It is the same situation in both instances, but with a choice between two masters. And the speaker assumed that in such a case, the people would choose the government.

What makes a government despotic? Power. The more power it has, the more despotic it is. Economic power concentrated in the government is despotism. The head of such a government is a despot.

It was the concentration of economic power in the government of Europe that drove the Pilgrim Fathers to a wild and woolly land. It was despotism that ruined sunny Spain. It is despotism that will eventually ruin the United States. And we are on the way now.

While economic power is controlled by the business world, although directed by only a few individuals, you still have the liberty to choose from whom you will buy; or you may refuse to buy at all, and save your money.

When economic power is concentrated in the government, see what (Continued on last page.)

## Advocacy Complex

It develops that F. D. has contracted what may be known in future years among the more fatal diseases as "Advocacy Complex". The pronunciation of this new disease should stress the second syllable, the change being made to better rhyme with Democracy, which induces the germs to more easily naturalize, and be as-

similated with less disturbance into the system into which it is inoculated, along with other much heralded innocuities.

In fact we may safely say that the form of Government has been so changed by the Sockacy Party, and its subsidiary the Talkacy Party that (Continued on last page.)